

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, and 13-18 are currently pending. Claims 2, 6, 10-13 have been cancelled and claims 13-18 are new. Claims 13-18 have been added. No new matter has been included. Applicants reserve the right to pursue original and other claims in this and in other applications.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamo et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,795,124) ("Gamo") in view of Schrock et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,803,553)("Schrock ") and further in view of Nijima (U.S. Pat. No. 5,900,914). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a terminal devices synchronizing method for synchronizing a plurality of terminal devices interconnected through a network, the respective terminal devices comprising:

vertical synchronizing signal generating means for generating vertical synchronizing signals, and control means for making synchronization control operations and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signals, respectively,

wherein the vertical synchronizing signal generating means comprises a vertical synchronizing counter, a horizontal synchronizing counter, and a reset circuit for resetting both the vertical synchronizing counter and the horizontal synchronizing counter,

the respective terminal devices extract the synchronizing signals from signals wirelessly inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices,

when the synchronizing signal is extracted, the reset circuit of the respective terminal device resets both the vertical synchronizing counter and the horizontal synchronizing counter in synchronization with the synchronizing signal, and the vertical synchronizing signal generating means of the respective terminal device outputs the synchronizing signal as a vertical synchronizing signal, when the synchronizing signal is not extracted, the vertical synchronizing signal generating means of the respective terminal device outputs a back-up vertical synchronizing signal, and

the control means of the respective terminal device makes synchronization control operation and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signal or the back-up vertical synchronizing signal.

Gamo discloses a system for synchronizing cameras, where a master camera provides to a slave camera a synchronization signal.

Gamo fails to disclose "the synchronizing signals from signals wirelessly inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices." Gamo teaches to the contrary and by master and slave camera being coupled, Gamo teaches receiving synchronous signal being input from within the system. As such, Gamo fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Schrock discloses a video timing system for clocking a sensor as well as clocking a downstream monitor and NTSC encoder.

Schrock fails to cure the deficiency of Gamo and fails to disclose "the synchronizing signals from signals wirelessly inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices." To the contrary, Schrock teaches using internal signals from the desired downstream video processing system which is coupled to provide input to an upstream video processing system for synchronization. As such, Schrock and Gamo fail to make obvious the claimed invention.

Nijijima discloses a horizontal synchronization generation circuit that self generates synchronization signals.

Nijijima fails to cure the deficiencies of Gamo and Schrock and fails to disclose "the synchronizing signals from signals wirelessly inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices." As Nijijima teaches generating its own synchronization signals. As such, Gamo, Schrock, and Nijijima fail to make obvious the

claimed invention. As such, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn and claim 1 and its dependant claims allowed over Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima.

Claims 5, 9, 13, 15, and 17 have similar language as that noted above with respect to claim 1 and are not obvious over Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claims 5 and 9 should be withdrawn and claims 5 and 9 and their dependant claims allowed over Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

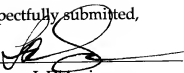
Independent claims 14, 16, and 18 include the “synchronizing signals extracted from an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the terminal device.”

Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima, separately or combined, fail to disclose “synchronizing signals extracted from an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the terminal device.” As such, Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima fail to make obvious the claimed invention. As such, claims 14, 16, and 18 should be allowed over Gamo, Schrock, and Nijjima.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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